Shojo Beat Manga

Tail of the Moon

Story &

Rinko Ueda

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Shojo Beat
MANGA FROM THE HEART

THE REAL DRAMA BEGINS IN...

Tail of the Moon

Usagi is the granddaughter of the leader of a prestigious ninja village, but she's such a klutz that she's never made it out of the kiddie class. Frustrated with Usagi's lack of progress, her great-grandfather sends her to marry Lord Hanzo and have lots of ninja babies. But the lord has no interest in her or her childbearing potential!

During their search for Mamezo, a downpour forces Usagi and Hanzo to take shelter inside a cave. Though the storm and dark cave provide a romantic backdrop for the loving couple, something sinister interrupts them—a poisonous ninja star that incapacitates Hanzo!

11

Story & Art by

Rinko Ueda

A romantic ninja adventure!

Shojo Beat

Tail of the Moon

11

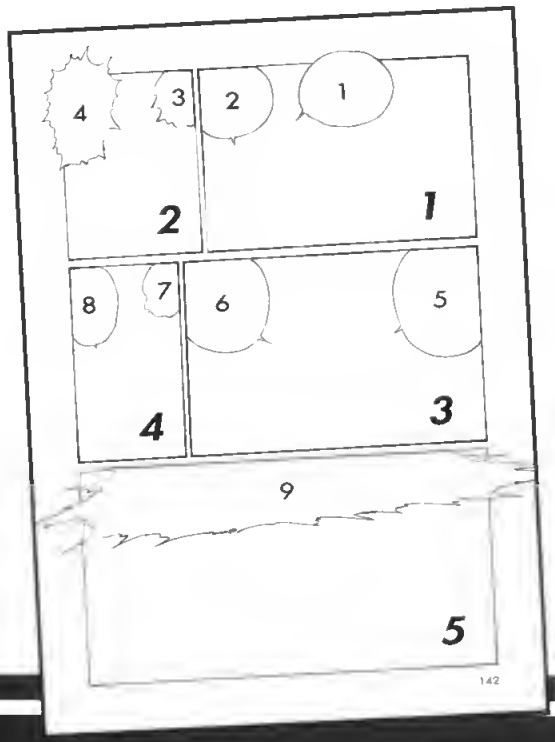
Story & Art by

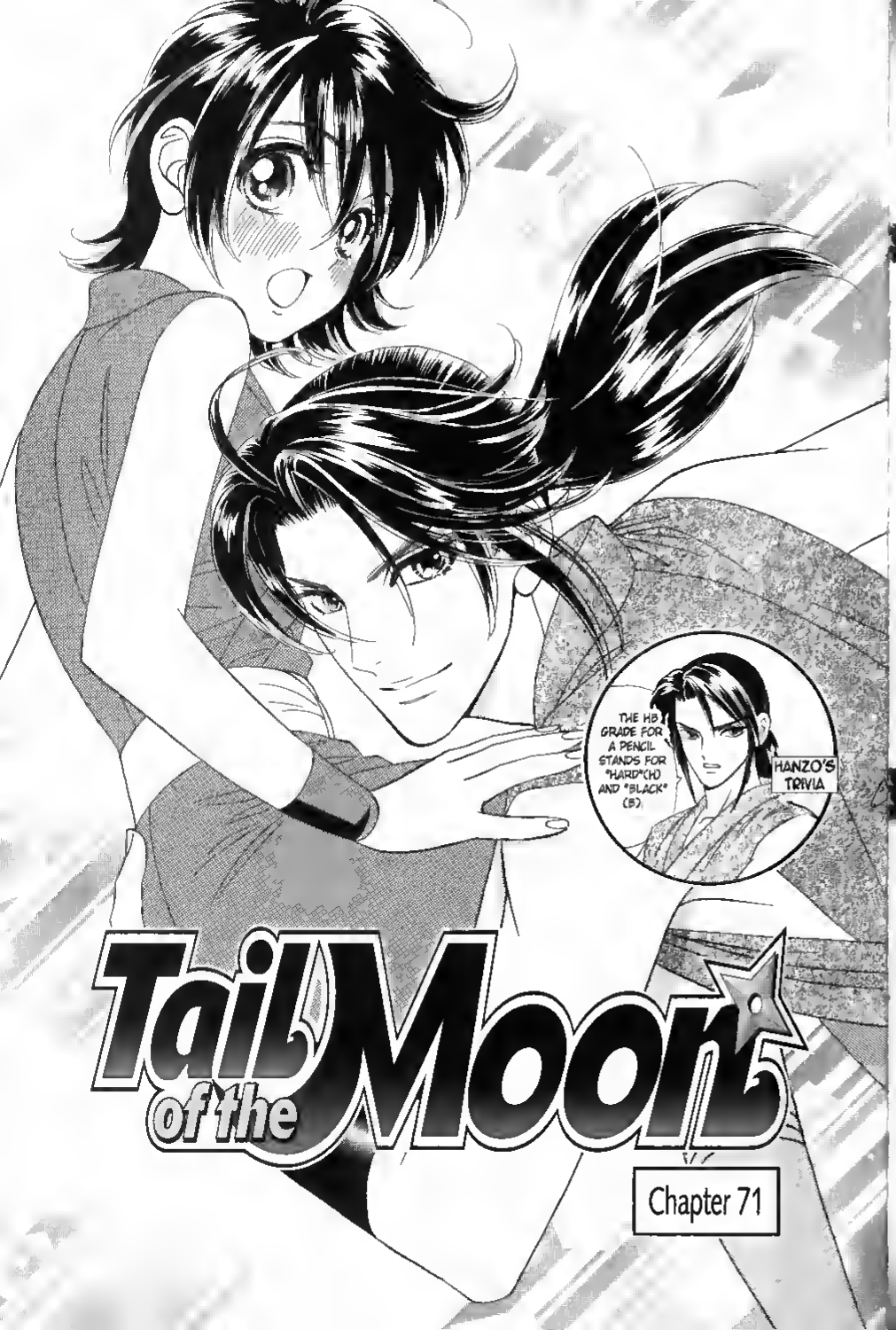
Rinko Ueda

SURPRISE!

You may be reading the wrong way!

It's true: In keeping with the original Japanese comic format, this book reads from right to left—so action, sound effects, and word balloons are completely reversed. This preserves the orientation of the original artwork—plus, it's fun! Check out the diagram shown here to get the hang of things, and then turn to the other side of the book to get started!





Tail of the Moon

Volume 11

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Story Thus Far...

It is the Era of the Warring States. Usagi is a failure as a ninja, but she is a skilled herbalist. She is working hard to qualify as a ninja so she can be the bride of Hattori Hanzo (aka "Shimo no Hanzo")!

Usagi and her friend Kame are captured and locked inside a cell by Ranmaru, who is hunting down the Iga ninja. In order to escape, Kame suggests that Usagi seduce Ranmaru. Though Usagi doesn't think she's up to it, she succeeds in seducing him, and they are able to escape by stealing the key to the cell.

Usagi is reunited with Hanzo, and they head back to the capital to look for Mamezo. Along the way, they are caught in the rain and decide to seek shelter inside a cave. They take off their soaked clothes and warm themselves by the fire. Hanzo is no longer able to hold back his feelings, so he suddenly holds Usagi tightly in his arms and...?!

"...HOLD MYSELF BACK ANYMORE ...!!!"
PANT
OOH...

PLIP
PLIP
ZZSSSSH
"I CAN'T ..."

I'M SORRY.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S JUST THAT I...

NO!
SHIVER
AAH...
I'M SCARED...
USAGI...?

...MAKING STRANGE SOUNDS...
I CAN'T STOP...
PANT
THIS IS EMBAR-RASSING ...
PANT
AAH...
OOH...
OOH...
IT'S NOT STRANGE AT ALL...

I'M HAPPY...
...THAT YOU LOVE ME AND WANT ME...

AAH...
RING
RING
YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD.
HMMH...?

PANT
BUT...
NO BUTS!
A NINJA MUST BE ON GUARD AND REMAIN QUIET AT ALL TIMES!!
PANT
AAARGH...
SIGH...

AA...
AAAH
FLAP
FLAP
TWITCH

I'LL TAKE MY TIME AND MAKE LOVE TO YOU...
...AFTER WE GET MARRIED IN IGA.
OKAY... ♡
DASH
HUH?

SHA
HANZO...
SHUP
UM...
AREN'T WE GOING TO CONTINUE ...?
THEY'RE ONLY HALF DRY, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN BEING NAKED.
PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON.
SHOCK
FWUP
GET DRESSED QUICKLY AND GO TO SLEEP.
IT'S BEEN POST-PONED.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT YOU, USAGI. THAT'S NOT WHY I STOPPED.
SNIFF
KRK
SHUP
DON'T CRY.
STUPID ME, STUPID ME ...!!
SNIFF
SNIFF

SHAK
...

EEYAH
SHK
SHK
SHK
ROLL
ROLL
AN ENEMY ?!
VISH
VISH

SHUUU
URGH!
DAMN!
TMP
SHA
GRR...

VUP
VISH

THUD
HANZO !!

HANZO...
IT'S A KOUGA NINJA.
WE MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY!!
YOUR SHOULDER'S INJURED!!
HANZO!
TUG
I'M FINE...

RAN-MARU ...
YOU HAVE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT...
WELL, NOW...
I DON'T KNOW...
ZWAK
IS RANMARU HERE?!
AT THE CAPITAL
MM... ♡

HANG IN THERE, HANZO!!
HANZO ...!!

RAN-MARU...
YOU STILL...
OF COURSE.
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP...
RANMARU, COME BACK HERE... ♡
THE IGA KUNOICHI MAY BE HIDING IN PLACES LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW.

COME WITH ME!!
HELLO, MITSUHIDE.
I JUST CAME HERE TO GET YOU!
OF COURSE NOT.
WON'T YOU JOIN US, MITSUHIDE?
Have you no shame?
LET GO...
BUT I AM MAKING GOOD USE OF MY TIME.
IF YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM WORK, CAN'T YOU MAKE BETTER USE OF YOUR TIME? PRACTICE YOUR SWORD SKILLS OR SOMETHING!

WE... MUST...
...LEAVE...
GASP
GASP
...AT...ONCE...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MAKE PROPER MEDICINE WITHOUT MY TOOLS...
...AND I CAN'T LEAVE HANZO HERE EVEN IF I GO AND CALL FOR HELP!!
NO GOOD!
I'LL MAKE AN ANTIDOTE RIGHT AWAY!!
HOLD ON...
ZUFF
ZUFF

A LETHAL ACONITUM POISON!!
THAT NINJA STAR HAD POISON ON IT!
SUUU
HANZO MAY BE A STRONG MAN, BUT IF THIS POISON SPREADS THROUGHOUT HIS SYSTEM...!!
PTTU
...HE WON'T STAND A CHANCE!!

HOW CAN I HELP HANZO?!
HANZO !!
HANZO !!

HANZO ?!
COUGH
COUGH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
COUGH
WHEEZ
WHEEZ
WHAT DO I NEED TO DO...?
WHEEZ
WHEEZ

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO MAKING MOCHI!"

-MARI, YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE

I'M TOUCHED BY HANZO'S LOVE FOR ME AS HE CONTINUES TO FOLD THE RICE WITH HIS INJURED HAND...!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN WHEN YOU POUND THE RICE!!
WHUMP
YEAH!
HAH!
WHUMP
I'M TOO SCARED TO HELP!

Tail of the Moon
Chapter 72

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO SKIING!"

-OCCHI, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

HANZO... I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME BY THE HAND AND TEACH ME ALL THE STEPS I NEED TO KNOW... ♥
THE WORD "GELENDE" IS DERIVED FROM GERMAN.
HELP ME...
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

THAT KOUGA NINJA MAY COME BACK AGAIN...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
IT'S ONLY THE WIND...
TREMBLE
RUSTLE
BUT IF I MOVE HANZO, THE POISON WILL SPREAD FASTER...
PLEASE GET BETTER!!
PLEASE, HANZO!

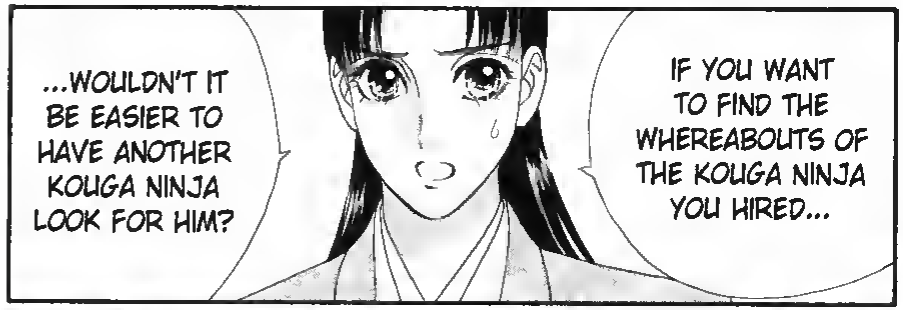
DON'T GIVE UP, HANZO!
GRIND
GRIND
DON'T DIE!!

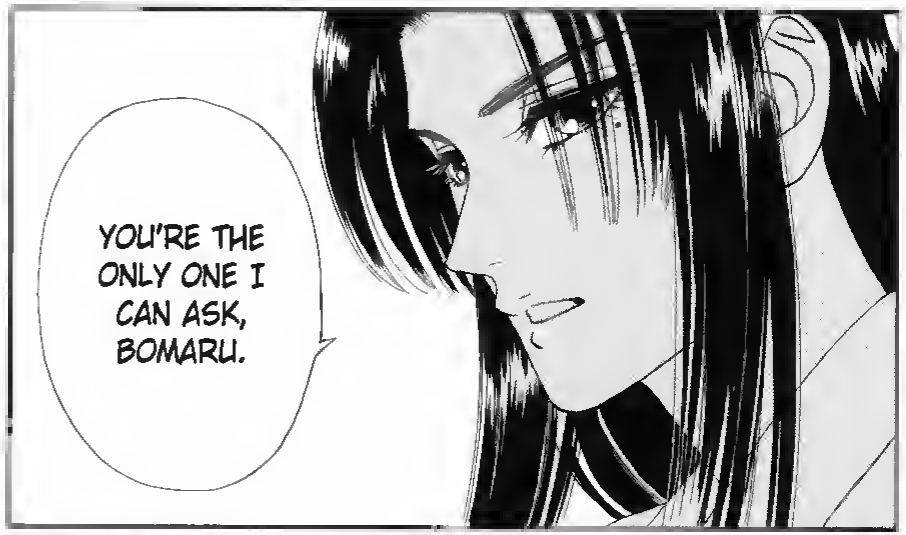
HANZO...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?!
I'M FINE NOW.
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY.

WAAAARGH
THANK GOOD-NESS...
HANZO REALLY IS...
IT'S NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT!!
...AMAZING!!

CHIRP
CHIRP
WAKE UP.
?!
MAMEZO IS WAITING FOR US AT THE CAPITAL!!

WHAT...?


...WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO HAVE ANOTHER KOUGA NINJA LOOK FOR HIM?
IF YOU WANT TO FIND THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE KOUGA NINJA YOU HIRED...


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK, BOMARU.

DO YOU KNOW WHO STOPPED THE ATTACK ON IGA?
WAIT.
VERY WELL...
WASN'T IT LORD NOBUNAGA?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

I WANT TO KNOW WHO ***ADVISED*** LORD NOBUNAGA TO DO SO.

HANZO...
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE CAPITAL...
HANZO !!

SHH
SHH
RUSTLE
GULP
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK USAGI TO MAKE ME MORE...
I ONLY HAVE A LITTLE BIT LEFT...

THE POISON HASN'T COMPLETELY LEFT HIS SYSTEM!!
HANG IN THERE, HANZO!!

DON'T TALK!!
I'M...
...FINE...

URR...
URRGH...
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
MMPH...

SCAN
SCAN

HUFF
HUFF
SLAM

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT A QUICK-FIX LIKE THAT WOULDN'T CURE THE POISON...

I'LL GO AND BUY SOME MEDICINE AT THE CAPITAL, SO WAIT HERE...
IT'S MY FAULT. I UNDER-ESTIMATED HANZO'S CONDITION!!

IF I LEAVE YOU IN THIS STATE, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.
SO STOP MAKING THINGS WORSE...
...AND WAIT FOR ME HERE LIKE A GOOD BOY!!

DON'T GO...
I'M...
...FINE...
HANZO, YOU FOOL!!

I'LL BUY THE INGREDIENTS AT THE MEDICINE SHOP...
...AND GET MY EQUIPMENT FROM THE HIDEOUT...

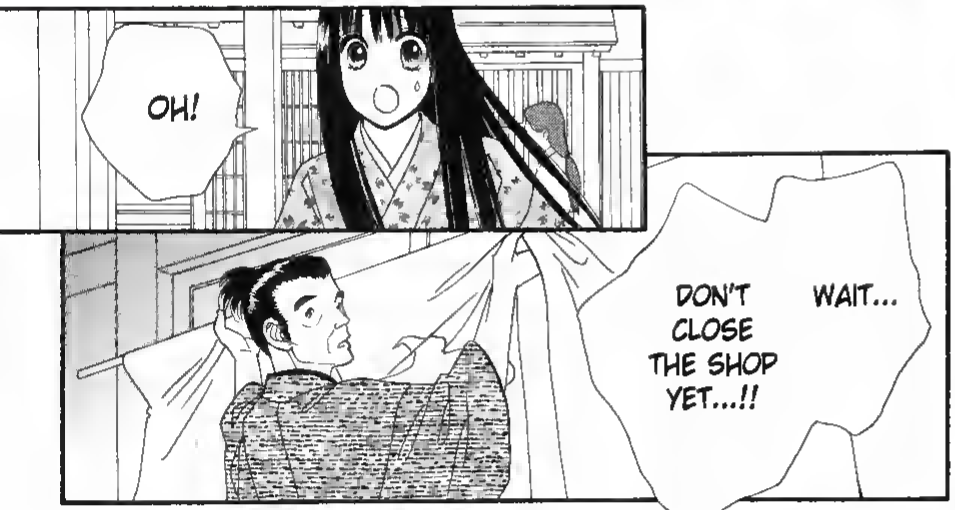
I'D BETTER JUST PREPARE THE ANTIDOTE AT THE HIDEOUT...
NO...

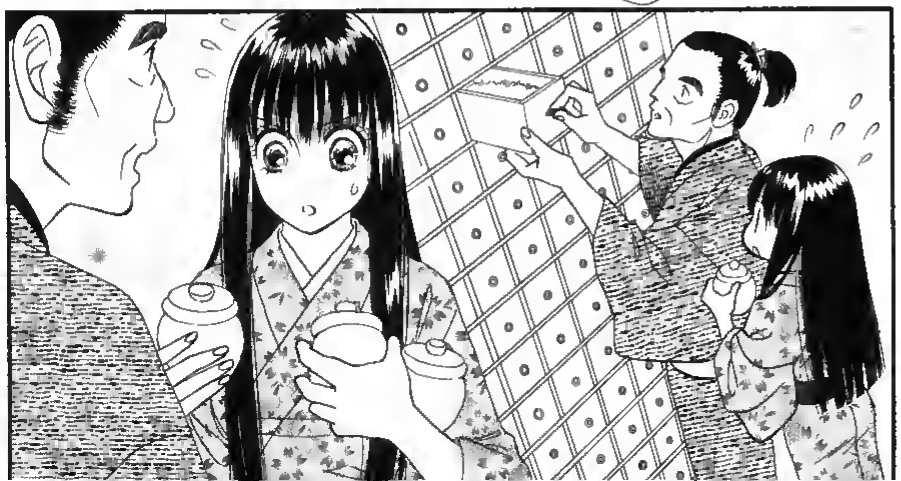
...SO I CAN'T WALK AROUND IN THESE CLOTHES...
THEY ALREADY KNOW WHAT I LOOK LIKE...
I MUSTN'T GET CAUGHT BY ODA'S NINJA HUNTERS.
SHA

MAMEZO...
ARE YOU HERE?

MAMEZO...!!
HMPH.
WHERE IS HE WHEN I NEED HIM...?

I'LL SAVE YOU!!
DASH

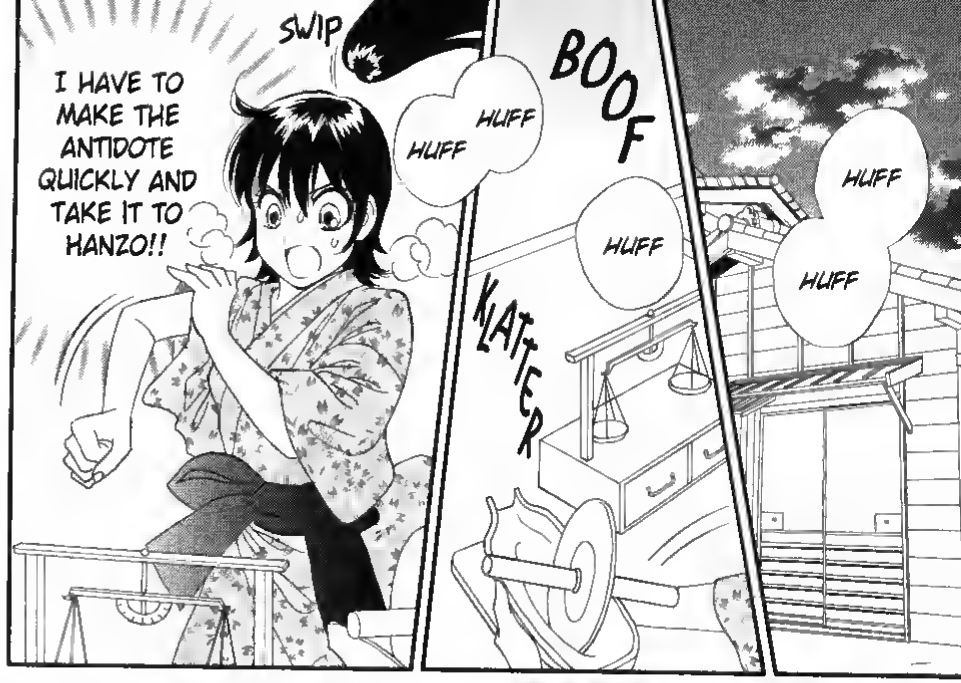

OH!
DON'T CLOSE THE SHOP YET...!!
WAIT...



HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SHP
SHEEN
WAIT FOR ME, HANZO!

I DID IT!!

ZWAK
WHA—
HANZO...
I'M COMING ...!


I HAVE TO MAKE THE ANTIDOTE QUICKLY AND TAKE IT TO HANZO!!
SWIP
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
BOOF
HUFF
KLATTER
HUFF
HUFF

IF I DON'T BLEND THE HERBS PROPERLY, IT MIGHT BE FATAL FOR HANZO!!
I...I HAVE TO CALM DOWN.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
AGH!
SHAA

THIS CHILD...
BA-BUMP
HAVE I MET YOU BEFORE SOMEWHERE ...?
THIS IS MY FRIEND, WATARI...
N...
...NO...
USA ...!
YOU HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT WATARI'S FATHER...
TAKE A LOOK AT...?
WHAT?!
WATARI'S FATHER IS ILL, AND HE'S DYING...
...

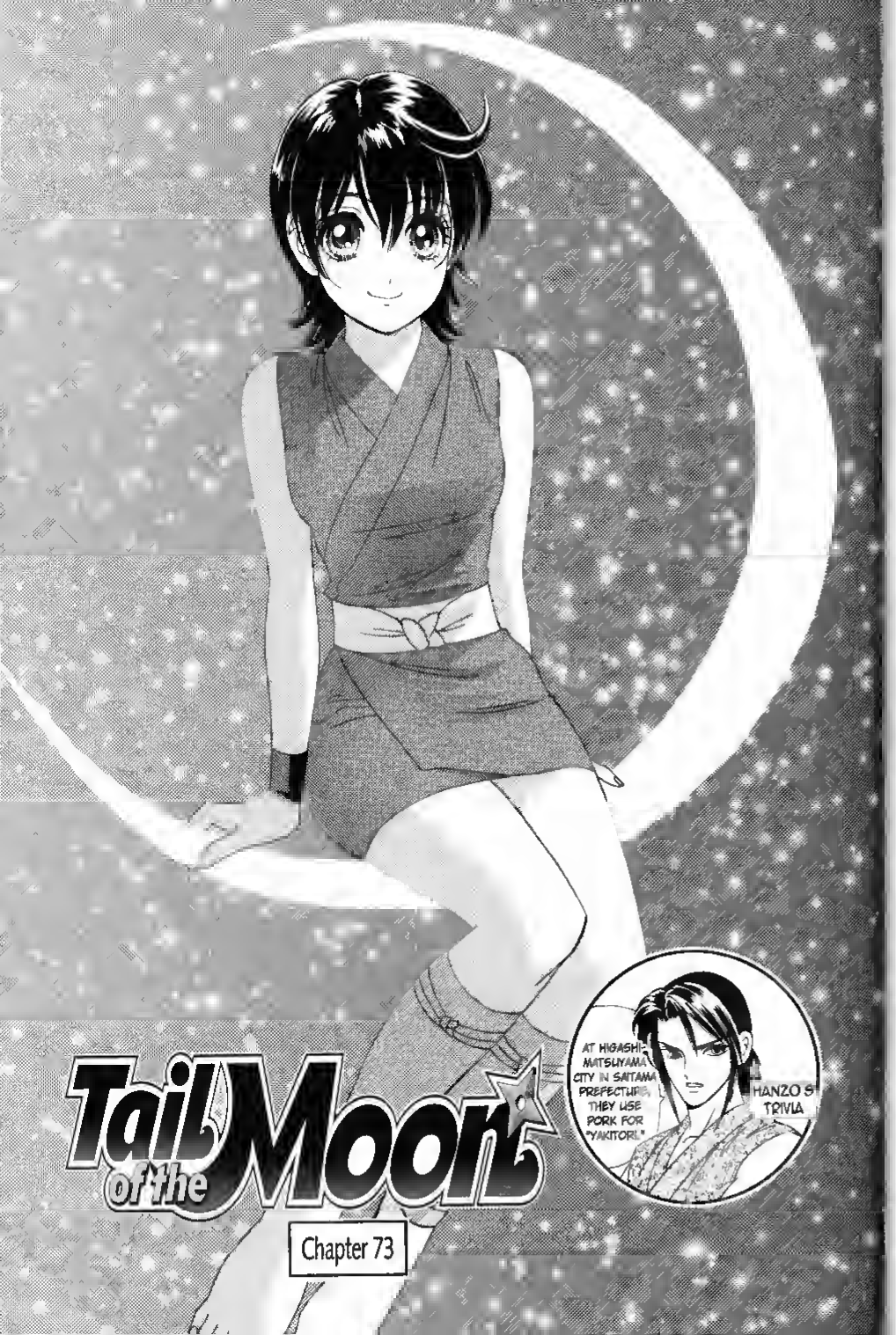
MAMEZO !!
You scared me
JUMP
USA...
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY...
I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU...
MAMEZO...
...DID YOU FIND THE MEDICINE...?
HMM?

WAARGH
WAARGH
,BUT HANZO...
PLEASE, USA...
...IS IN PAIN RIGHT NOW...
YOU HAVE TO HELP WATARI...!!
WHERE...
...DO YOU LIVE?

WAIT A MINUTE...
WATARI...
I'M REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW, SO I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO...
USA IS AN HERBALIST, SO I'M SURE SHE CAN HELP.
SOB
D...
...DAD'S GOING TO DIE...
WAARGH

I'VE BROUGHT AN HERBALIST!!
TMP TMP
DAD...
ZWAK
WHEEZ
HERB...
WHEEZ
...ALIST...?!
I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I'M FINISHED, HANZO!!
EXCUSE ME FOR BARGING IN LIKE THIS!

I'M SORRY, HANZO.
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR FATHER, SO SHOW ME THE WAY!!
THAT HOUSE !!
HOLD ON FOR A LITTLE LONGER!!
THIS WAY!!



TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO AS A MANGA ARTIST!"

-KOZUE OYAMA, OITA PREFECTURE

HANZO REALLY IS ASTOUNDING! HE CAN STILL KEEP GOING EVEN AFTER EIGHT ALL-NIGHTERS... ♥
"CHOJU-GIGA" WAS THE FIRST FORM OF MANGA IN JAPAN.
...BUT EIGHT ALL-NIGHTERS IN A ROW IS...
...TOO... MUCH...
HA... HANZOOO... I'M GLAD YOU MAKE YOUR DEAD-LINES...
Usa, the screentones are all messed up
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

DAD...
AN HERBALIST HAS COME TO LOOK AT YOU.
SHHK
SHH
YOU...
...SEEM TO HAVE A SLIGHT FEVER.

HIS TONGUE SEEMS PARALYZED RIGHT NOW.
CAN'T YOUR FATHER SPEAK?
PARALYZED ?
NOT AT ALL!
AH...
DOES HE HAVE A RUNNY STOMACH?
AH...
AH...

...THAT YOU'VE BEEN POISONED ?!
COULD IT BE...
HIS SYMPTOMS ARE THE SAME AS HANZO'S...
I...
I DUNNO, HERB-ALIST...
AH...
HERB-ALIST ?!

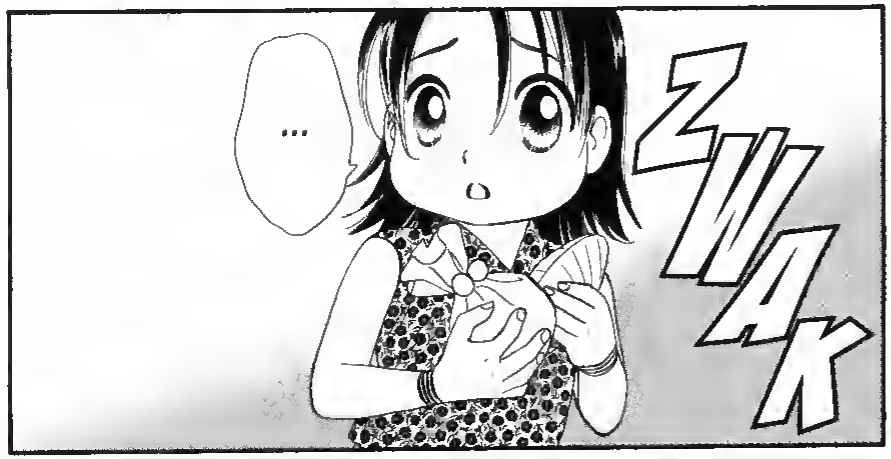
...IS THE KOUGA NINJA THAT ATTACKED US!!
THIS MAN...
SHUP
THEN, THAT MEANS...
AH...
AH...
...IS THAT LITTLE BOY I TREATED BACK IN KOUGA!!
THIS CHILD ...

...I'M GOING TO GET MY RE-VENGE !!
AH...
AH...

THIS...
...IS THE GUY WHO POISONED HANZO?!
NOW...
AAH...

LET'S GO, MAMEZO!!
BYE!
OKAY...
HUUUH?

USA, YOU'RE HURTING MY HAND...
HERB-ALIST...


...
ZUAK

HERB-ALIST...
WILL MY DAD...
...BE OKAY?

WHEEZ
WHEEZ

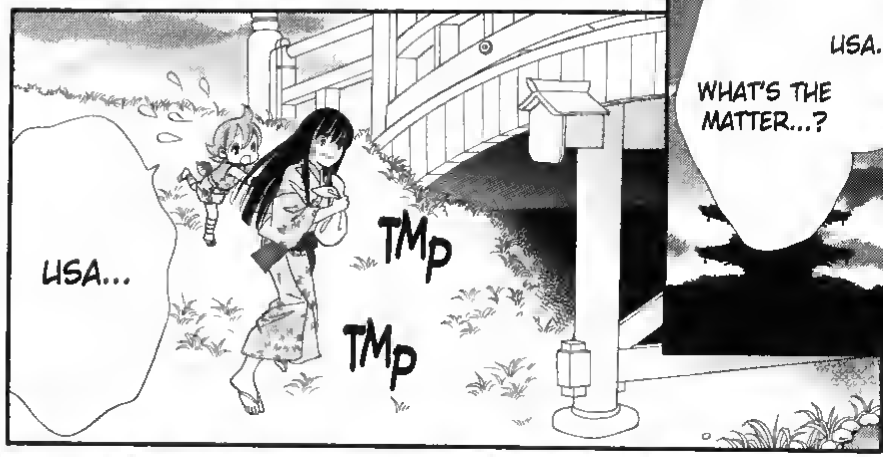
HAVE HIM TAKE IT EVERY MORNING AND EVENING.
THIS IS AN ANTI-DOTE!
YOU ONLY HAVE TO APPLY THE OINTMENT ONCE A DAY.
URGH...
I... CAN'T... DO IT!!
HAND ME MY BAG!

WATARI'S ONLY BEING THAT WAY TO TRICK YOU!
...AND HE'S BEEN REALLY KIND TO ME...
B...BUT WATARI'S REALLY NICE...

THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US!

DON'T EVER SEE HIM AGAIN!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WATARI ...?
...

...


USA...
TMP
TMP
USA...
WHAT'S THE MATTER...?

SCAN
SCAN
HUFF
HUFF

BOTH WATARI AND THAT SICK MAN ARE KOUGA NINJA!!
WHAT?
MAMEZO.
YOU MUSTN'T PLAY WITH WATARI ANYMORE!!

TP
TUP
COME BACK HERE...!
WHA...
SHA

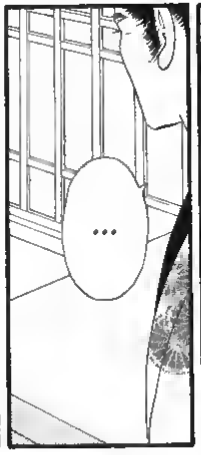
MAMEZO...
Maybe he's in his rebellious stage...?!

COME ON... LET'S GO SEE HANZO...
TUG
WATARI IS MY FRIEND!!
MAMEZO...
BUT...
I HATE YOU, USA!

CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY IF HE MAKES ANY SUSPICIOUS MOVES...
HOMEMADE SOBA
UDON

ARE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF?
WELCOME!

HANZO HASN'T ARRIVED YET...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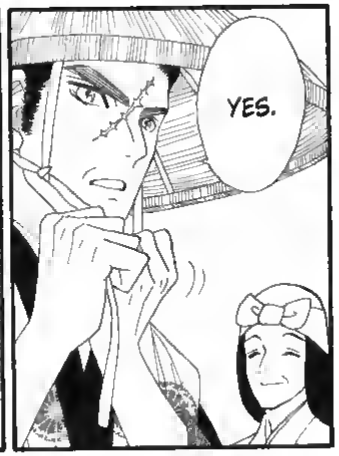
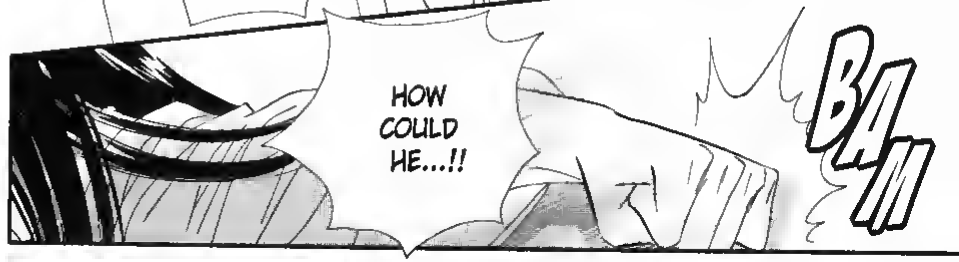
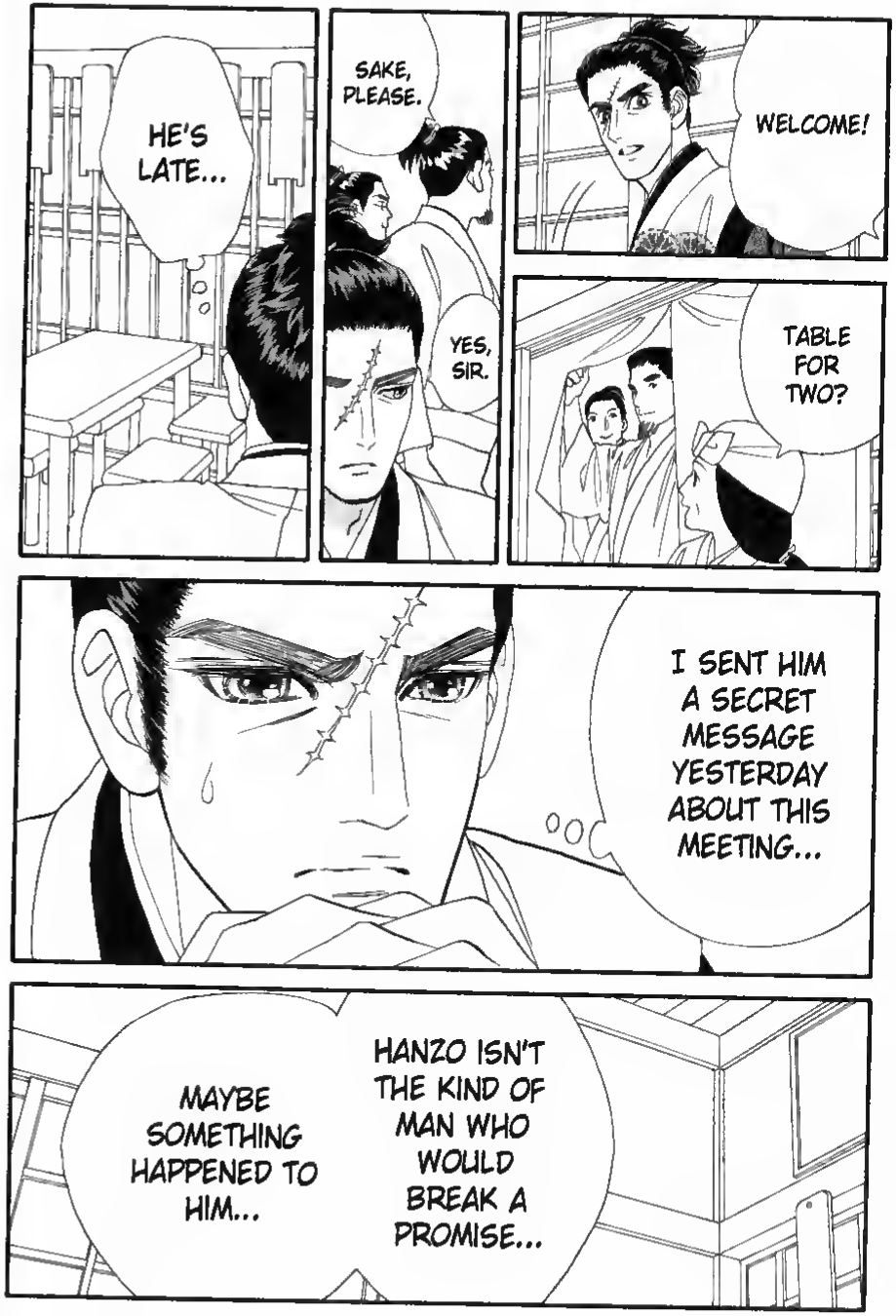

YES.

WHAT?!
MITSUHIDE ADVISED LORD NOBUNAGA ...
...TO STOP THE ATTACK ON IGA ?!
YES...


HOW COULD HE...!!
BAM

KEEP YOUR EYE ON MITSUHIDE...

YES?
BOMARU...
...


HE'S LATE...
SAKE, PLEASE.
YES, SIR.
WELCOME!
TABLE FOR TWO?
I SENT HIM A SECRET MESSAGE YESTERDAY ABOUT THIS MEETING...
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM...
HANZO ISN'T THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD BREAK A PROMISE...

I'M SORRY...
HOMEMADE SOBA
I...I'M SORRY.
SHNK
...BUT I'D LIKE TO CLOSE THE SHOP FOR TODAY...
...
I NEED TO ASK USAGI FOR MORE MEDICINE FOR MY EYES...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HIS PULSE IS WEAK TOO!!
Bmp
Bmp
TUP
I'VE GOT TO GO GET SOME!
OH, THERE'S NO WATER.
TH...THE ANTIDOTE SHOULD HELP HIM...

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE WHEN I REALLY NEED MAMEZO'S HELP...

PANT...
PHEW...

A LOT HAPPENED BACK AT THE CAPITAL AND...

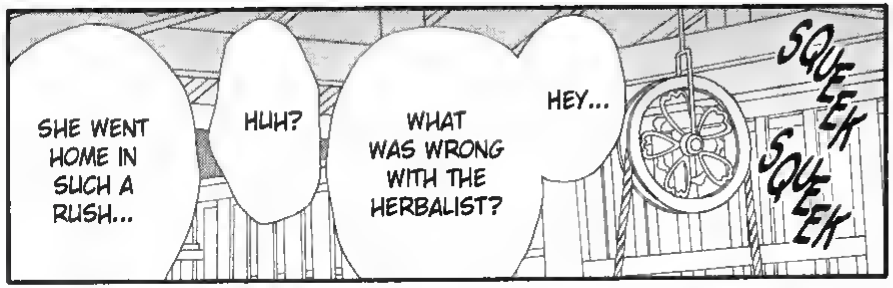
ZWAK
I'M SORRY I'M LATE...
HAN-ZO...

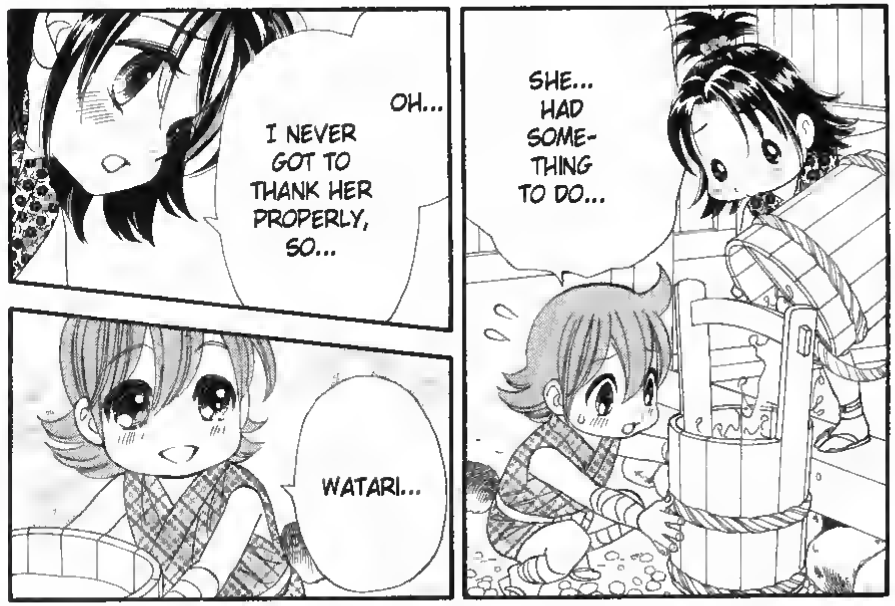
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF

HIS BODY'S SO COLD!!
HAN...
...ZO...?

MAMEZO...
LET ME HELP.
WATARI...
NGH
NGH


SHE WENT HOME IN SUCH A RUSH...
HUH?
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE HERBALIST?
HEY...
SQUEEK
SQUEEK


OH...
I NEVER GOT TO THANK HER PROPERLY, SO...
WATARI...
SHE... HAD SOME-THING TO DO...

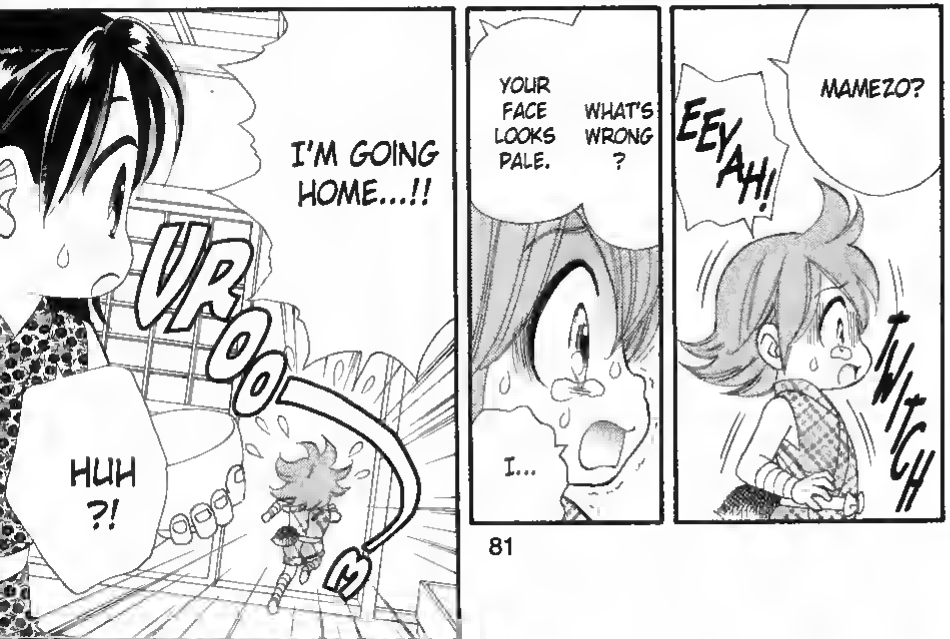
"WATARI'S REALLY NICE!!"
SPLASH

I WONDER IF MAMEZO'S STILL WITH THAT KOUGA NINJA?

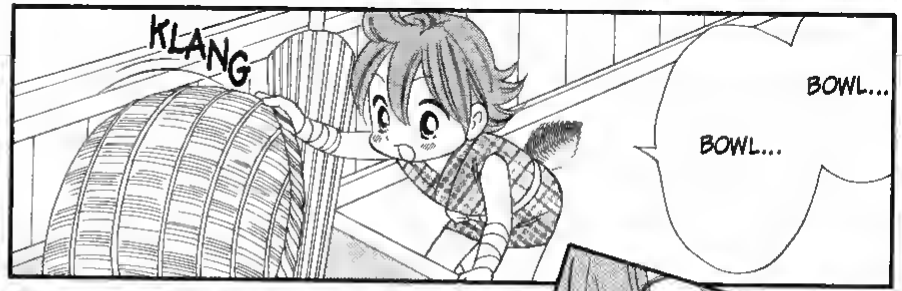
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MAMEZO...
PLEASE BE CAREFUL!!

THEY'RE BOTH KOUGA NINJA!!
WELL THEN, I'LL START WITH YOU!

NOT THAT I'VE GOT ANYTHING SPECIAL TO EAT, BUT...
MAMEZO... YOU'RE GONNA EAT DINNER WITH ME, RIGHT?


I'M GOING HOME...!!
URGE
HUH ?!
YOUR FACE LOOKS PALE.
WHAT'S WRONG ?
I...
MAMEZO?
EEYAH!
TWITCH

POUR THE WATER INTO A BOWL FOR ME.
WA-TARI...
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT THE WATER?
NHOA NHOA
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
DAD SEEMS TO BE FEELING BETTER, THANKS TO HER.


KLANG
BOWL...
BOWL...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
USA WAS RIGHT...
WATARI IS... WATARI IS...
GRAB
...MY ENEMY...
!!

LITTLE BOY...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS LATE IN THE NIGHT?
...

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZOU IN RAZOR RAMON HG'S OUTFIT!"

-AZUSA YAMAMOTO, NARA PREFECTURE

LET ME GO...!
BE QUIET!
!!
I'M ONLY TAKING YOU HOME.
MMPH...
NGHH...
USA...

"WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS LATE IN THE NIGHT?"
AH...
NOOO!
LET ME TAKE YOU HOME.

I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MEDICINE LEFT EITHER...
I GAVE HALF OF THE ANTIDOTE AWAY, SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO BACK AND MAKE MORE...
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HANZO HERE, BUT...
TCH...
IF ONLY MAMEZO WAS HERE RIGHT NOW...

PLEASE WAKE UP, HANZO!!
PLEASE... DRINK THIS MEDICINE...
AGH...
I'M SORRY, HANZO...
I SHOULD'VE COME STRAIGHT TO HANZO INSTEAD OF HELPING THAT KOUGA NINJA!!

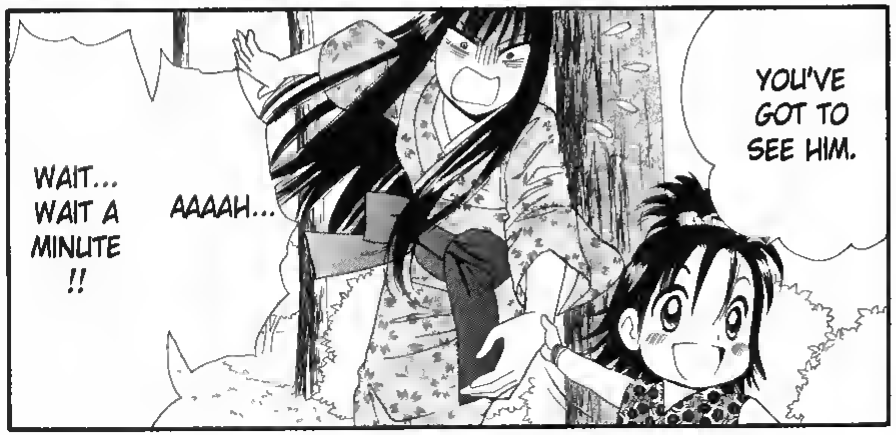
SNEAK
"I HATE YOU, USA!!"

HEY, HEY.
TUG
TUG
BUT HOW DO I GET INSIDE...?
OWW!
SLAP
I'M BUSY!
Huh?

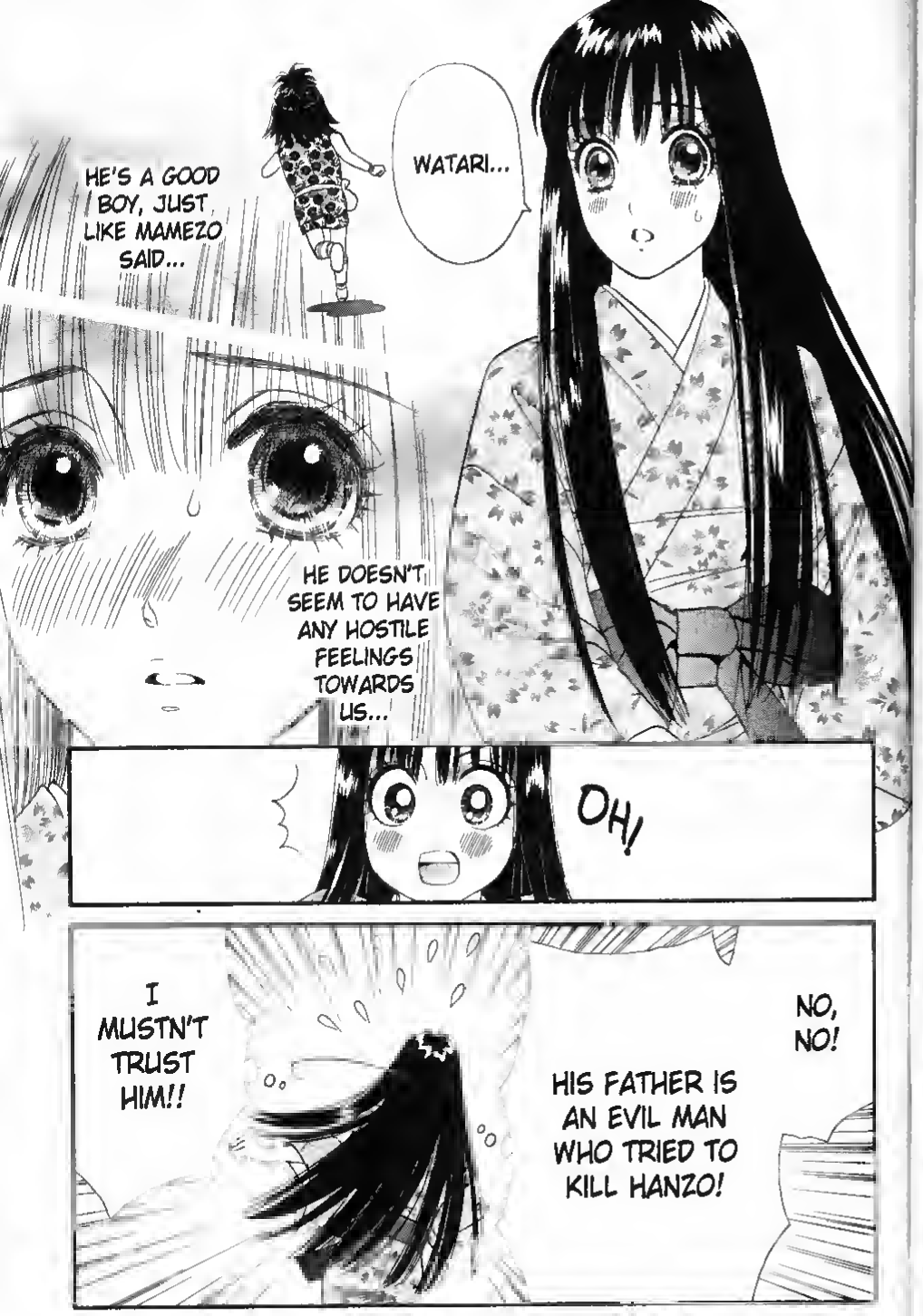
REBELLIOUS STAGE OR NOT, I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM BACK WITH ME!

DID YOU COME TO SEE HOW DAD WAS DOING?
HERB-ALIST ...
ACK!
THE BOY FROM KOUGA!!
SORRY I STARTLED YOU...
EH...
W... WELL...
B-BUMP
B-BUMP

OH, REALLY...? THAT...THAT'S GOOD...
THANKS TO YOU, MY DAD'S DOING A LOT BETTER NOW.


WAIT... WAIT A MINUTE !!
AAAAH...
YOU'VE GOT TO SEE HIM.

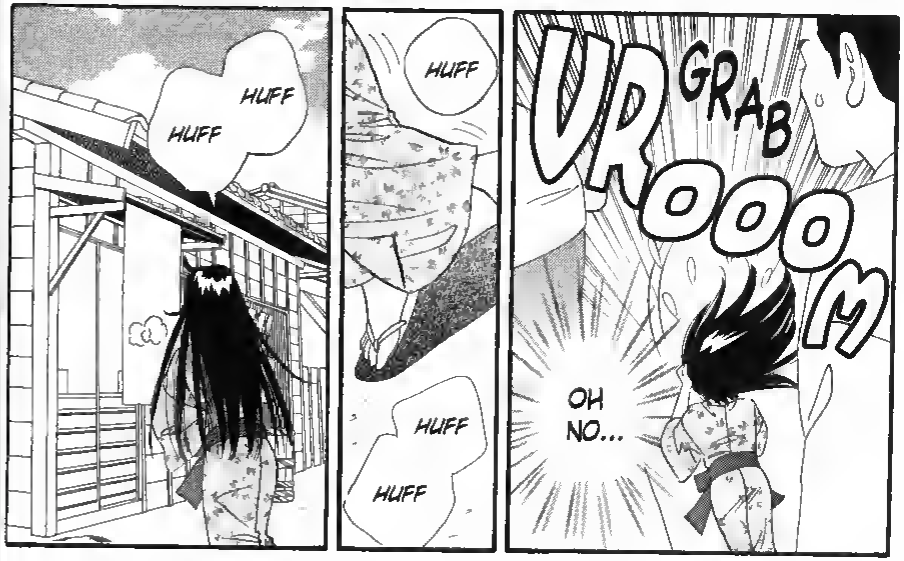
I'LL GO AND LOOK FOR MAMEZO FOR YOU!
WHAT ...?!
WHERE HAS HE GONE OFF TO...?
EH...
I CAME TO LOOK FOR MAMEZO...
HE'S HERE, ISN'T HE?!
NO...
HE DROPPED BY LAST NIGHT BUT WENT STRAIGHT HOME.
I JUST WANNA HELP YOU, HERBALIST!!
IT...IT'S OKAY...
C'MON, DON'T WORRY.


HE'S A GOOD BOY, JUST LIKE MAMEZO SAID...
WATARI...
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY HOSTILE FEELINGS TOWARDS US...
OH!
I MUSTN'T TRUST HIM!!
NO, NO!
HIS FATHER IS AN EVIL MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL HANZO!

I HAVE TO MAKE THE MEDICINE AND GET BACK TO HANZO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!
DASH
OOH! ♡
HUFF
HUFF
THANK YOU... ♡
HUFF
HUFF
OHH!
TRIP
WUMP
IF WE HADN'T BEEN ATTACKED BY THAT KOUGA NINJA, WE WOULD'VE BEEN LIKE THAT TOO...
I'M SO ENVIOUS...

PLEASE... I'M IN A HURRY!!
THAT'S A TOUGH ONE...
AN EVEN STRONGER ANTIDOTE ...?!
I'LL TAKE IT!!
...BUT I'VE HEARD THAT IT'S DIFFICULT TO MIX IT WITH THE OTHER HERBS...
WELL, THERE'S ONE THAT I STOCKED RECENTLY...
I'LL DO MY BEST SO THAT IT WON'T TURN OUT THAT WAY!!
BUT IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, IT COULD BE FATAL FOR THE PATIENT.

OWW...
WUZZ
AAH!
HER HAIR FELL OFF.
WUZZ
WUZ


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GRAB
OOOM
OH NO...

THAT WAS CLOSE...
AIII...
SLAM
YOWWW!!
THROB
THROB
I WONDER IF I HAVE ANY OINTMENTS FOR BRUISES ...
HUH?

I DROPPED BY TO ASK USAGI TO MAKE ME SOME MORE MEDICINE...
RUSTLE
IT'S A LETTER FROM MITSUHIDE!
HIS EYES MUST BE GETTING BAD AGAIN...
THE WRITING'S ALL CROOKED...
ZWAK ZWAK
I'M NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO ALL THIS BY MYSELF...!!
AAAAARGH
WAIT.
SO I'VE GOT TO MAKE MEDICINE FOR HIS EYES AS WELL...?!

WHAM
OH!
NNN...
MITSUHIDE ...
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!

WORK HARD SO THAT YOU MAY REDEEM YOUR POSITION UNDER LORD NOBUNAGA.
IS THAT SO!

SEE YOU LATER.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?
RANMARU ?!
N...NO, I'M FINE...
BUT RANMARU, THOSE CLOTHES...

I THOUGHT I'D TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCIPLINE MY MIND AND BODY...
HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO GO BACK TO HONNOJI ...?
NO... I'M STILL UNDER PROBATION.

WHERE'S MAMEZO?
HE'S WITH YOU TOO, ISN'T HE?!
USAMARU!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
HUFF
HUFF
YIP
YIP
HUH?
S...SI... LENCE...
YIP
YIP
YIP
YIP

THIS SHOULD WORK BETTER THAN YESTERDAY'S ANTIDOTE...
DIZZY
PLEASE WORK...
ZWAK
YIP
YIP
YIP
THAT BARKING SOUND!
DIZZY
DIZZY
I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH SLEEP IN THE LAST THREE DAYS...
YIP
YIP
YIP

I'M SORRY... FOR ALL...THE TROUBLE...
YOU HAVE TO REST UNTIL THE POISON IS COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.
AND DRINK THIS MEDICINE TOO!!
I...
...STILL CANNOT... MOVE...MY BODY...
DOES IT STILL HURT?
HANZO, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?!

I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, HANZO!!
NOT AT ALL!

I'LL GO AND LOOK FOR HIM!!

USAMARU'S HERE, SO HE MUST BE NEARBY!
WE MUST... GO AND FIND... MAMEZO...

YAP YAP
STOP... BARKING...
WOOOO
GOOD...
THAT'S... RIGHT...
WAAAARGH
YOU'RE... THE... NOISIEST...
...ONE... HERE...
HAN... ZO...!!

PANT
PANT
HEEZE...
HEEZE...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WAIT FOR ME, USAMARU...
THIS IS...
WHAOOO
WOO
HEEZE

ZUFF
ZUFF
USA-MARU...
...WEREN'T YOU WITH MAMEZO...?
MAMEZO...
WHERE ARE YOU...?
IF HE'S NOT WITH USAMARU...
...THEN MAYBE HE'S BEEN CAPTURED BY THE KOUGA NINJA...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

WHAOO
OOOH
YIP YIP
HEY...
YOU HAVE TO BE MORE SERIOUS ABOUT FINDING MAMEZO!
WOOO
WOOF
WOOF
WHAT'S WITH THAT NOISE?
HE'S...
...GOING TO WAKE UP...

WHAOOOO
YAP YAP
WHERE ARE WE ...?
DASH
THEY COULD BE MEN WORKING FOR ODA!
OH NO!
I'M SORRY!
I...
SHUP
YIP YIP
GO AWAY!
SHOO!
SHOO!

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE USAGI AND HANZO'S VALENTINE'S DAY!"

-MICCHI, SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE

I SHOULD GET BACK TO HANZO. HE MIGHT BE WORRIED ABOUT ME...
YOU'RE A NINJA DOG, YOU KNOW. YOU HAVE TO FIND HIM!!
MM... MM...

HUFF
HUFF
WELCOME BACK...
MPH...

ROOO
ROOO
BE QUIET !!
YIP
YIP
WHAOOO
THERE'S NO WAY THAT MAMEZO'S IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!!

I'M THIS CLOSE TO BECOMING HANZO'S WIFE...
I'VE GOT TO FIND MAMEZO AT ALL COSTS AND RETURN TO IGA!
YOU HAVEN'T FOUND HIM YET?!
N... NO... YOU SEE...

I'VE BEEN GRADUALLY TRAINING SO THAT I CAN MOVE MY BODY AGAIN.
HANZO... YOU... YOU CAN ...?
AT THIS RATE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO TO THE CAPITAL SOON!!
RIGHT...
MARRIED ...!!
AND THEN WE'LL RETURN TO IGA AND GET MARRIED.

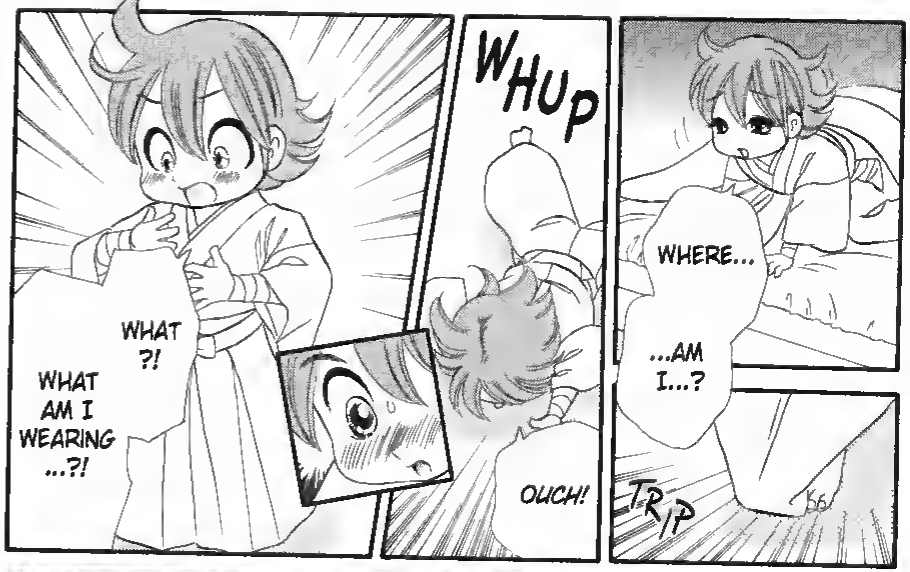
I REALLY...
...HOPE MAMEZO'S OKAY...
NGH...

I'LL GO AND LOOK FOR HIM...
I'LL LOOK FOR HIM FIRST THING TOMORROW!
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO MUCH!!
I THOUGHT HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE KOUGA NINJA...
...BUT HE WASN'T WITH THAT BOY WATARI...
GROGGY
I HAVE TO MAKE MITSUHIDE'S MEDICINE AND GIVE IT TO HIM TOO...
WHUMP
...AND...
ZZZ...
USAGI ?!
JUST... LET ME SLEEP...
...FOR A WHILE...

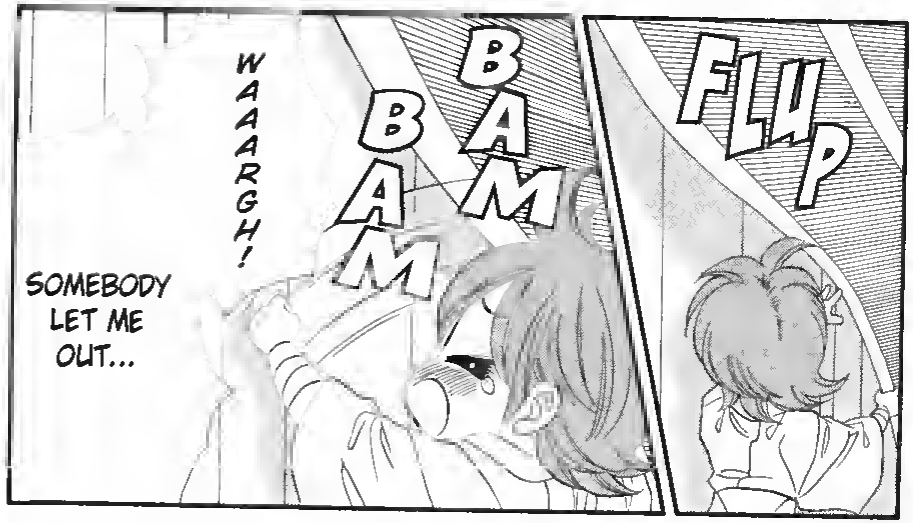
USA...
WAAARGH!
BAM
BAM
HELP ME...
USA...
WAAARGH!

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO LEAVE.
HEEZE
HEEZE

THIS...
...IS YOUR HOME, LITTLE ONE.


WHAT AM I WEARING ...?!
WHAT ?!
WHUP
OUCH!
WHERE...
...AM I...?
TRIP

WHAT'S GOING ON...?!


SOMEBODY LET ME OUT...
WAAARGH!
BAM
BAM
FLUP

I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME, SO I WAS ONLY ABLE TO MAKE A LITTLE BIT.
I'LL GIVE YOU A LARGER BATCH NEXT TIME.
THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING BACK TO IGA, USAGI?
EH?
WELL, AS SOON AS I FIND MAMEZO...
LORD NOBUNAGA HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL THE ATTACK ON IGA.

OUCH!
MY ARM STILL HURTS FROM THAT FALL...
!!
SHFF
WAIT...
MITSU-HIDE!!
COULD IT BE ONE OF ODA'S MEN?!
SHP
THAT'S...

GET BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE QUICKLY!
PLEASE...
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH...
I HOPE YOU FIND MAMEZO SOON...
UH-HUH...!
OKAY!!

WELL... IT MUST BE MY IMAGIN-ATION...

I HAD A FEELING THAT SOMEONE WAS...

SCAN
WHO'S WATCHING ...?!

WE'VE...
R... REALLY ?
REALLY.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO YOUR OLD LIFE.
WE'VE SUCCEEDED IN PROTECTING EVERYBODY !!
THANK YOU...
...MITSU-HIDE...

MAMEZO...
WHERE ARE YOU...?
MAMEZO...
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING...
SHUDDER
HOLD IT!
EEP!

RANMARU...
MITSUHIDE WAS MEETING AN IGA NINJA...!!
WAIT.
W...WE MUST CAPTURE HIM AT ONCE AND TAKE HIM TO LORD NOBUNAGA...
I HAVE A PLAN.
WH... WHY...?!
BOMARU ... DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

I'M SO JEALOUS OF MAMEZO...
...
GLUG GLUG
HERBALIST, DO YOU WANT SOME WATER?
HEEZE HEEZE
YHESSS ...
HE'S GOT SUCH A NICE MOM LIKE YOU...
BOOSH
I FOUND MAMEZO...
AREN'T CHA?
M...MOM? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?!
OF COURSE NOT!!
PANT PANT
WATARI...
TMP
HERB-ALIST...
TMP TMP
WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT?!
THESE ARE MAMEZO'S CLOTHES, AREN'T THEY?!
OVER HERE!!
TUG
HEEZE HEEZE
LET ME... CATCH...MY BREATH...
W... WAIT...
HEEZE
MAMEZO ...
PLEASE BE SAFE!!
PANT PANT
WHY ONLY HIS CLOTHES ...?

I HAVE TO FIND HIM.
LET'S GO, WATARI!
HE MUST BE CRYING RIGHT NOW.

THIS IS...
THIS IS WHERE I FOUND MAMEZO'S CLOTHES.
HERB-ALIST...

...THE BIG MANSION THAT USAMARU WAS BARKING IN FRONT OF YESTERDAY...

...MY PET DOG FOUND A BABY, AND THAT WAS MAMEZO.
WHEN I WENT CHERRY-BLOSSOM VIEWING AT YOSHINO MANY YEARS AGO...
WAARGH
WAARGH

I TOOK CARE OF HIM, SO I GUESS IT'S NOT A LIE TO SAY THAT HE'S MY CHILD, BUT...
U-tha.
SIGH

GO AWAY !!
YOU CANNOT ENTER!
KLANG
AHH
JUMP
LET ME IN...!!
LET ME IN!!
MY BOY'S INSIDE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SHOCK
HER...
HER HAIR...?!
GRAB
UWAH!
FLISH

SOB...
I CAN'T DO IT...
ME TOO...
NGH
HOP
HOP
LEAP
THEN MAMEZO'S GOTTA BE INSIDE!
ACK!
IT'S MAMEZO !!
!
MAMEZO !!
DASH

USA...!!
JUMP
USA!!
MAMEZO...

MAMEZO...
WHERE ARE YOU?!
OWWW!!
WE HAVE AN INTRUDER...!!
MAMEZO ...?!
USA !!
DASH
EEEYAH!
COME BACK HERE...!!

PLEASE DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY...
THAT BOY...
...YASUHITO... IS A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED I WAS?!
I'M SORRY...
HERB-ALIST!
HURRY, WE'VE GOTTA RUN!!
CLOMP
CLOMP
!!

Tail of the Moon

Chapter 76

TSUNDERE
A PLACE THAT IS ICEBOUND THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE YEAR...?
TSUNDERE ...?
YOU'RE A TSUNDERE CHARACTER, HANZO.
THAT'S TUNDRA.
DELI... DELI...
IT DOESN'T HAVE A TASTE.
...DELI-CIOUS?
TSUN-DERE... DERE...
IT'S A TYPE OF PERSON WHO'S USUALLY UNFRIENDLY BUT BECOMES LOVESTRUCK IN FRONT OF THEIR LOVED ONE!
HA HA
I'VE GOT IT!
A SHARP DELIVERY SERVICE.
TSUNDERE TSUNDERE!
AND WHO ...
THIS ISN'T KABADDI, USAGI!!
...ARE YOU CALLING A TSUNDERE CHARACTER ?!

LEAN
LEAN
WH... WHAT...
WAAARGH
CLOMP
CLOMP
I'M NOT PRONE TO USING FORCE, BUT YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE...
VISH
VISH
AAH!
ZZT
AGH!
ZZT
SHA
WH... WHAT'S GOING ON...?!

THAT MAN KEEPS CALLING ME BY THAT NAME!!
"YASUHITO IS A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY."
YASUHITO ...?
YOU WEIRD KID-NAPPER!
WE'RE TAKING MAMEZO BACK WITH US!!

THAT BOY IS MY GRANDSON, YASUHITO.
HE WAS SNATCHED AWAY BY A DOG IN YOSHINO A LITTLE AFTER HE WAS BORN...!!

YOU FOOLS...
WHY ARE YOU TAKING YOU SO LONG?
HANZO!!
THAT MAN KIDNAPPED MAMEZO!!
H...HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT...?
ALL I DID WAS TAKE BACK MY GRANDSON.

MAMEZO SHOULD BE RETURNED TO WHERE HE ACTUALLY BELONGS.
AH...
I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE A REASONABLE PERSON.
HANZO ?!

I DON'T WANT TO GO EITHER!!
MAMEZO'S *MY* BOY!!
NO WAY!

THINK CAREFULLY.
USAGI...

...IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR MAMEZO TO LEAD A PEACEFUL LIFE AS A COURT NOBLE?
DON'T YOU FEEL THAT RATHER THAN BEING A NINJA WHOSE LIFE IS CONSTANTLY IN DANGER...

I HAVE BEEN...
...SEARCHING FOR HIM EVER SINCE THEN. PLEASE RETURN HIM TO ME...

NO...
SQUEEZE

RETURN MAMEZO TO HIM.

WHAT... WHAT COLOR WAS THAT DOG...?
A SHAGGY WHITE DOG!!

IT WAS... SHIRO?!
YOSHINO...
THEN HE REALLY *IS* TALKING ABOUT MAMEZO?!

NO, USA...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU!
I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU, USA...
DO AS I SAY!!
YOU'VE FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO MEET YOUR REAL FAMILY ...
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT IT...

I WANT TO GO BACK TO IGA WITH YOU...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, USA.
BETTER FOR MAMEZO...
...TAKE GOOD CARE OF MAMEZO... PLEASE...
SO YOU DO UNDER-STAND!

USA...
USA...!
USA, DON'T GO...
USAAAAA!!

BE A GOOD BOY.
LET'S GO, WATARI.
O... OKAY...
USA...

IT WAS FOR MAMEZO'S OWN GOOD.
LISA, DON'T GO...
I CAN STILL HEAR MAMEZO'S VOICE...
WE'LL PACK UP RIGHT AWAY AND RETURN TO IGA.
HANZO...
I HAVE TO MAKE MORE MEDICINE FOR MITSUHIDE'S EYES...
WHY NOT?
SOB... I CAN'T GO YET...

ONCE WE'RE BACK IN IGA, WE'LL GET READY FOR THE WEDDING.
...
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR WEDDING.
OH!
WEDDING?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
SNIFF
WAARGH
E...EVEN THOUGH THE ATTACK ON IGA'S BEEN CANCELLED...
...AND I'M ABLE TO MARRY YOU...
...I'M NOT HAPPY WITHOUT MAMEZO...

THAT'S...
THAT'S THE KUNOICHI FROM IGA!!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...!!

AH CHOO
PLEASE BE QUIET.
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT HERE?
IT'LL ONLY BE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

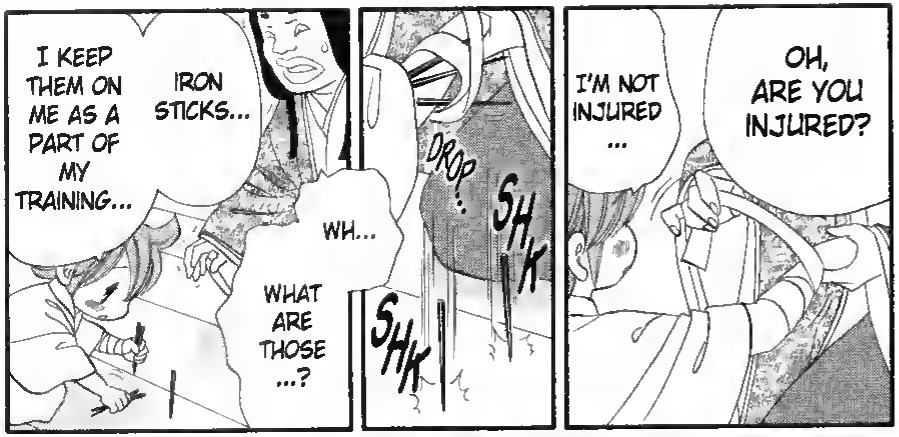
I PROMISE YOU THAT YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING.

IT'S MITSUHIDE...
PEEK
PEEK
HIDE, SADANARI!!
THERE HE IS!
SHA
HUH?

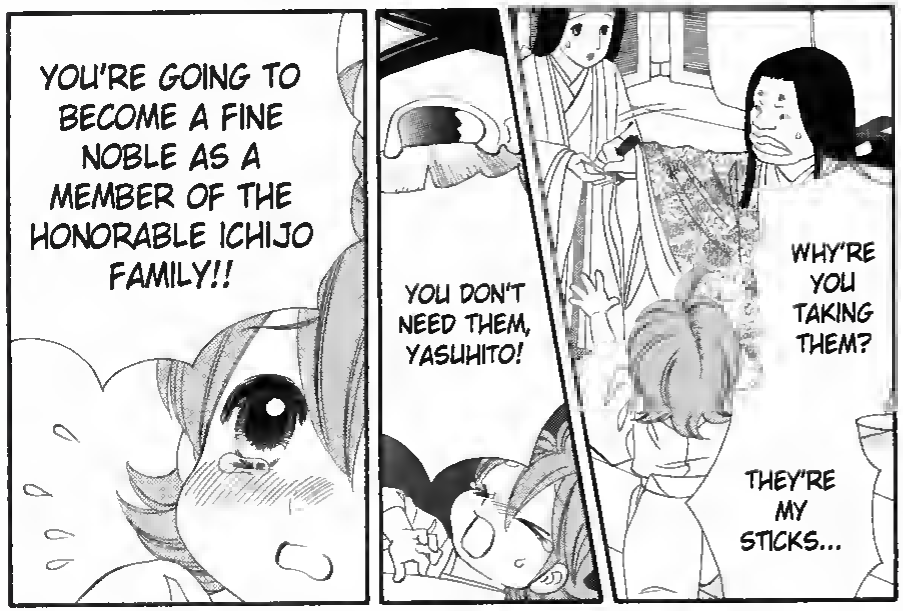
SOB
SOB
I HAVE COME AT YOUR REQUEST.
WAARGH
IF YOU KEEP CRYING, YOUR FACE IS GOING TO GET PUFFED UP.
AH, THERE YOU ARE.

NANNY?
THIS IS YOUR NANNY.

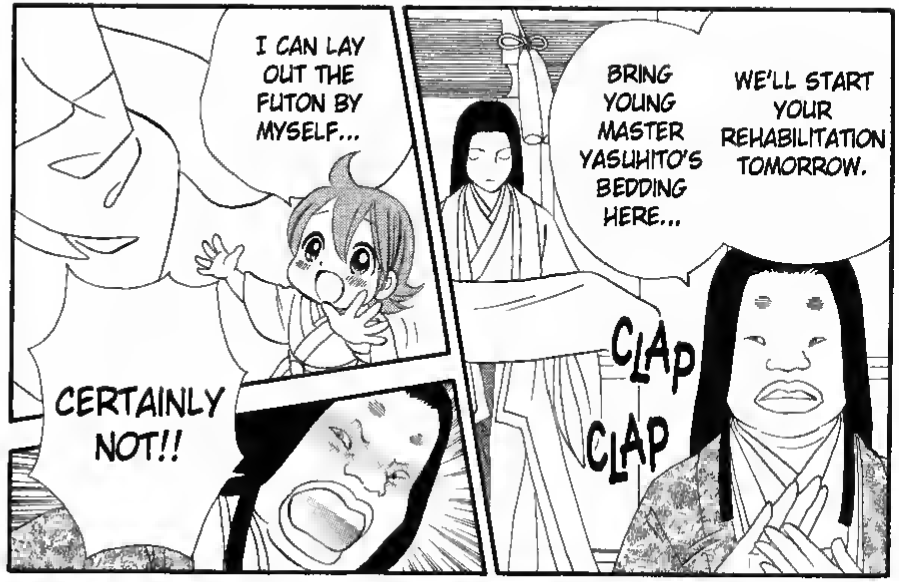
GLARE
MY NAME IS MAMEZO ...
WAARGH!
YOU MUST CALL YOURSELF "YASUHITO"!
TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR ME.
NOW, YASUHITO ...
LET'S GET YOU CHANGED.
YOUNG MASTER YASUHITO, I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU ARE SAFE AND SOUND.
RAISE


I KEEP THEM ON ME AS A PART OF MY TRAINING...
IRON STICKS...
WH...
WHAT ARE THOSE ...?
DROP...
SHK
SHK
I'M NOT INJURED ...
OH, ARE YOU INJURED?

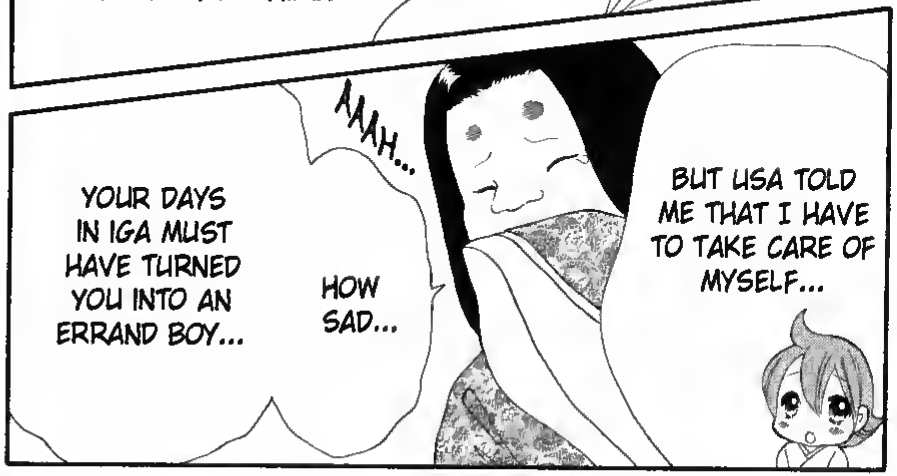
WE MUST THROW THEM ALL AWAY!!
HERE
AND I CAN USE THEM AS WEAPONS IF I'M IN DANGER...


YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A FINE NOBLE AS A MEMBER OF THE HONORABLE ICHIJO FAMILY!!
YOU DON'T NEED THEM, YASUHITO!
WHY'RE YOU TAKING THEM?
THEY'RE MY STICKS...

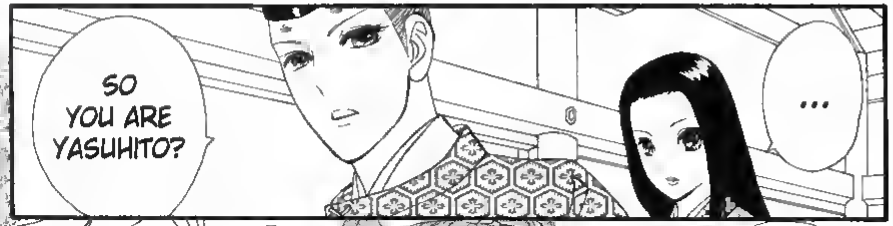
YOU'LL BE MEETING YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER TOMORROW.
YOU MUST GREET THEM PROPERLY.
I'M GOING TO SEE MY MOMMY AND DADDY?!
GLARE
I...I MEAN...
...MOTHER AND FATHER...
B-BUMP
B-BUMP


I CAN LAY OUT THE FUTON BY MYSELF...
CERTAINLY NOT!!
BRING YOUNG MASTER YASUHITO'S BEDDING HERE...
WE'LL START YOUR REHABILITATION TOMORROW.
CLAP CLAP

A CHILD OF A COURT NOBLE MUST NOT DO ANYTHING BY HIMSELF! HE MUST HAVE OTHERS DO THINGS FOR HIM!!
WHY...?


AAAH...
YOUR DAYS IN IGA MUST HAVE TURNED YOU INTO AN ERRAND BOY...
HOW SAD...
BUT USA TOLD ME THAT I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF...

A FEW HOURS LATER
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
YASUHITO AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR AGES.
B-BMP
B-BMP...


SO YOU ARE YASUHITO?
...

H...
HEY...
I'VE BEEN REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING MY MOMMY AND DADDY...!!

Ouch.
I COULDN'T SLEEP VERY WELL.

THE NEXT DAY
YASU-HITO...
WERE YOU ABLE TO SLEEP LAST NIGHT?

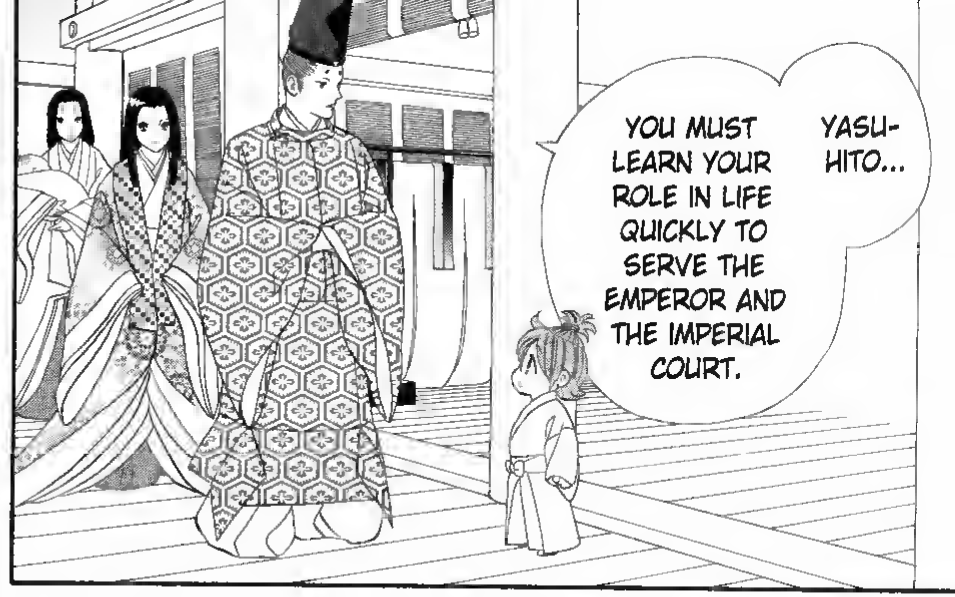
OKAY!
TMP
YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER HAVE NOT ARRIVED YET, BUT WE'LL WAIT IN THE OTHER ROOM.

...

...
FOLLOW ME.

SHUP
SHA

WAAARGH
WAAARGH
I DON'T WANT TO FORGET ABOUT IT!
AH...
FUMIHITO IS CRYING.
YASUHITO.
YOU MUST FORGET ABOUT YOUR LIFE BEFORE.
WAARGH
WAARGH
I'LL TAKE HIM.
!
WAARGH
WAARGH
IS THAT BABY MY LITTLE BROTHER?
DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
TWITCH


YASU-HITO...
YOU MUST LEARN YOUR ROLE IN LIFE QUICKLY TO SERVE THE EMPEROR AND THE IMPERIAL COURT.

THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM ALL THE COURT NOBLES WORK UNDER AND LIVE FOR.
WHO'RE THEY...?

HANZO TAUGHT ME THAT A NINJA MUST LIVE FOR THE PEOPLE AND DIE FOR THE PEOPLE.
WE DON'T DO IT FOR THE PEOPLE?
PEOPLE ?

...
GUNGE
SHFF
SHFF
IF WE DO NOT HURRY, WE WON'T REACH IGA BY THE END OF THE DAY.
USAGI...
I PRAY...
SNIFF
YEAH...
...THAT MAMEZO WILL BE ABLE TO LEAD A HAPPY LIFE...

WAAARGH
WAAARGH
FATHER...
I HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT YASUHITO WAS SPIRITED AWAY IN YOSHINO AND WAS NO LONGER WITH US.
I CANNOT LOVE A CHILD WHO HAS SUDDENLY TURNED UP...
...THE WAY I LOVE FUMIHITO.

Tail of the Moon

Chapter 77

GREAT-GRANDPA'S SECRET♡
MASTER TANBA, PLEASE TEACH ME THE SECRET BEHIND YOUR DISGUISE !!
OH ...?
IT'LL COST YOU FIVE HUNDRED YEN.
Thanks! ♪
SHA
OF COURSE.
LEND ME YOUR EAR.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?
FIRST, YOU DISLOCATE YOUR SHOULDERS AND THE SECOND JOINT OF BOTH ARMS, AND THEN YOUR LEG BONES WILL...
I'M STILL ALIVE AND KICKING.
ARE YOU OKAY, HANZO ?!
STAGGER
I...I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED...
PULL

I TRIED TO HAVE YOUR PARENTS DROP BY...
...BUT THEY'VE GONE HOME...
I'M SORRY, YASUHITO ...
THAT'S OKAY.
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO MEET MY REAL MOMMY AND DADDY...
...BUT I'M NOT VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT...
PHEW
IS...IS THAT SO?
BUT IT'S STRANGE ...
I WONDER WHY...?

"I CANNOT LOVE A CHILD WHO HAS SUDDENLY TURNED UP..."
"... THE WAY I LOVE FUMIHITO."
YASUHITO...

SHHHH
BUT I...
I'M NOT SLEEPY YET!
HMM?
...DON'T TAKE NAPS USUALLY...
UM... I...
BOOOF
AAAH!
YOU MUST TAKE A NAP EVERY DAY HERE.

SHHHH
YOU THINK SO?
I'M SURE HE'S DOING FINE.
HE'S INSIDE A GRAND MANSION.
MAMEZO ... I WONDER IF HE'S WET FROM THIS RAIN...?
WE DID THE RIGHT THING.
THIS WAS THE BEST CHOICE FOR MAMEZO.

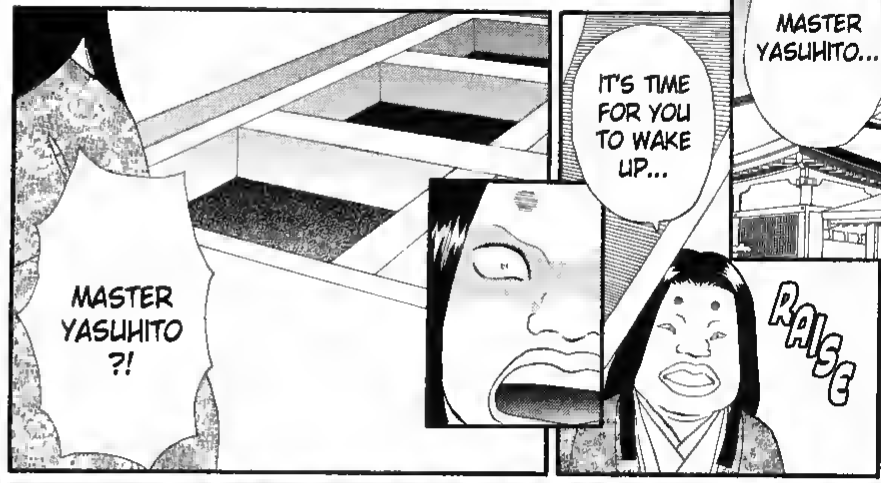
USAMARU CAME FOR ME... ♪
I THOUGHT YOU HAD GONE BACK TO IGA WITH USA AND HANZO!
HUG
USAMARU!!
YAP
YAP
I WANT... ...TO SEE USA AGAIN...
ARWWW

IT'S THE DOG WHISTLE WATARI GAVE ME! ♪
PAT
OH!
SNIFF
FUU
SILENCE...
LIFT
THAT'S COMING FROM BELOW...
Y!P
Y!P
NOBODY WILL COME...
HA...

THERE! MASTER YASUHITO!
WE'VE FOUND HIM!
DASH
USA-MARU, YOU IDIOT ...!
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
HOW SHOULD I GET OUT ...?

YIP
OWW!
SPLONK

WAAARGH
TMP
TMP
YASUHITO !!
WA...
MY CLOTHES ARE GOING TO GET DIRTY IF I DO.
YOU CATCH HIM.
URGH...
SHAKE
SHAKE


MASTER YASUHITO ?!
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO WAKE UP...
RAISE
MASTER YASUHITO...
RIP
RIP

HMM...
THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE GUARDING THE PLACE...

POP
I'M GLAD THE RAIN STOPPED ...
HUFF
HUFF

I WANT TO LEAD A LIFE WHERE I CAN CRY AND LAUGH TOGETHER WITH USA...
WAAARGH!!

THAT'S ...!
THEY SEEM TO BE ARGUING ABOUT SOMETHING...
CAN'T I SEE HIM FOR EVEN A SECOND ?!
WHY ?!
YAP YIP
SNIFF
SOB
DIGH

WAAARGH
LICK LICK
I WANNA GO BACK TO IGA...!!
OH MY...
HE'S COVERED IN MUD...

WAARGH WAARGH
WHY AREN'T YOU HAPPY HERE?
YASU-HITO...
...AND A GOLDEN FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU...
YOU HAVE A LIFE OF GREAT COMFORT...
I WANT TO BE WITH USA!!
SO WHY...

YEEOW!
CHOMP
GRAB
HOLD IT!
MAMEZO !!
MAMEZO!
OWW...
USA!

...SO LET ME THROUGH.
I JUST CAME TO GET A QUICK LOOK AT MAMEZO...
USAAAAA!

GIRL FROM IGA...
WHAT...?
WILL YOU TAKE YASUHITO UNDER YOUR CARE?
IT IS TOO LATE...
MASTER ...?!
U...
USA...
WAAAH...
...FOR YASUHITO TO BECOME A COURT NOBLE.

MA-MEZO ...
USA...
OH MY, HOW CAN SHE HOLD MASTER YASUHITO WHEN HE'S COVERED IN MUD...?

ONE CONDITION ...?
PLEASE MAKE YASUHITO HAPPY.
I WILL!!

WAAARGH!
I...
WA...
AREN'T YOU GLAD, MAMEZO?
YOU CAN COME BACK TO IGA WITH US.
YES.
BUT, ONLY UNDER ONE CONDITION...
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN TAKE MAMEZO WITH US?

YES!!
BEING TOGETHER IS OUR HAPPI-NESS.
WE'RE NEVER APART.
WE'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
MASTER, YOU'VE GOT MUD ON YOUR HAND...
FEEL FREE TO COME AND PLAY ANYTIME.
OKAY!
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME GO BACK.
MISTER...
ALL RIGHT, MAMEZO.
LET'S GO BACK TO IGA!!

I JUST GAVE HIM SOME INFORMATION THAT PROVED TO BE OF INTEREST TO HIM.
HOW DID YOU APPEASE LORD NOBUNAGA'S ANGER?
THAT'S WONDERFUL.
AH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK.
IS THAT SO?

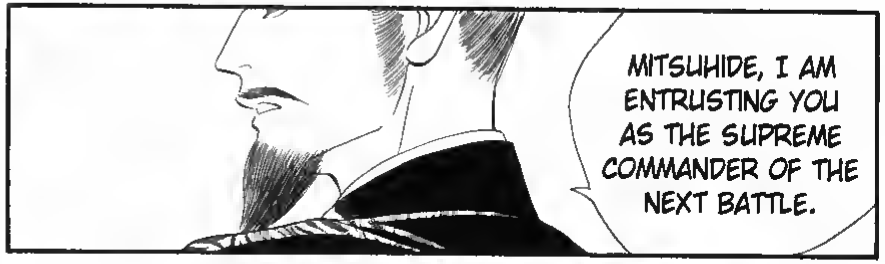
THE NEXT DAY
LORD NOBUNAGA IS ASKING FOR YOU.
MITSUHIDE...

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE...
!

I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO THE POSITION OF LORD NOBUNAGA'S PAGE AS OF TODAY.
RAN-MARU ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?!

...IGA.

I HAVE COME AT YOUR REQUEST.
IT IS I, MITSUHIDE.


MITSUHIDE, I AM ENTRUSTING YOU AS THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE NEXT BATTLE.

...WHO ARE WE WAGING A WAR AGAINST, MY LORD?
AND...
YES, SIR.
Y...
WE ARE GOING TO ATTACK...

...WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
FROM NOW ON...
TO BE CONTINUED...

IGA...
...MY LORD?!

Page 136, panel 3: **Tsuntsun and Dere**
Tsuntsun can mean "prickly" in Japanese, and Hanzo assumed *dere* to be an abbreviation of "delivery" here.

Page 136, panel 4: **Kabaddi**
A game that is like a combination of dodgeball and tag that's played in South Asia. It is a rule of the game that the attacking member is not allowed to breathe while attacking, so "kabbadi" is constantly chanted to prove that the player is not taking a breath.

Page 137: **Ryoma Sakamoto**
Ryoma Sakamoto (1836-1867) is considered to be one of the greatest contributors to the modernization of Japan. He was a leader who envisioned Japan without a shoganate and worked towards creating a modern naval force.

Page 58: **Choju-giga**
Choju-giga are a set of four picture scrolls that date back to the mid-12th to 13th centuries. They depict illustrations of frogs, rabbits, and monkeys acting human-like. Though they have no writing on them, these scrolls are considered to be the oldest form of *manga* in Japan.

Page 59: **Yakitori**
Yakitori literally means "grilled poultry" (usually chicken), and it is served on a skewer. However, *yakitori* in Higashi-Matsuyama City of Saitama Prefecture are actually made with pork instead.

Page 84: **Razor Ramon HG**
Razor Ramon HG is a character that Japanese comedian Masaki Sumitani portrays on TV. He wears a leather fetish outfit and goes around performing acts of chanty to unsuspecting bystanders.

Page 85: **Chikuwa**
Chikuwa is a round, tube-like food product made of ingredients like fish paste and starch. The name *chikuwa* means "bamboo ring," referring to the shape that it looks like when it is sliced. *Kamaboko* is also made from fish paste, but it is usually shaped like a half-circle.

Page 100, panel 2: **Honnoji**
Honnoji is a temple in Kyoto. Oda Nobunaga often stayed here when he traveled to the capital.

Page 136, panel 1: **Tsundere**
Tsundere is a term that combines two Japanese words–*Tsuntsun* (which means "unfriendly") and *deredere* (which means "lovestruck"). It is used to describe people who are rather unfriendly at first sight but gradually become more lovely as you get to know them.

The ways af the ninja are mysteriaus indeed, sa here is o glossary af terms ta help you navigate the intricacies af their warld.

Page 24, panel 4: **Aconitum**
Also known as aconite, monkshood, or wolfsbane, Aconitum is a genus of flowering plants belonging to the buttercup family. There are over 250 species of Aconitum, and several species have been used in poisoned arrows.

Page 28: **Mochi**
Rice cake made of glutinous rice that is pounded into paste and molded into shape. When making *mochi*, one person pounds the rice with a large mallet while another person quickly folds the rice so that the mallet will keep pounding a different area of the rice. That way, the rice will be evenly pounded.

Page 32: **Gelende**
In Japanese, the word *gelende* means "ski slope" whereas in German, *gelände* means "terrain" or "land."

Page 39, panel 2: **Oda Nobunaga**
Oda Nobunaga lived from 1534 to 1582, and came close to unifying Japan. He is probably one of the most famous Japanese warlords. He was the first warlord to successfully incorporate the gun in battle and is notonous for his ruthlessness.

Page 2: **Shimo no Hanzo**
Shimo no means "the Lower," and in this case refers to Hanzo's geographic location rather than social status.

Page 2: **Ranmaru Mori**
Ranmaru Mori is one of Nobunaga's most famous vassals. He became Oda Nobunaga's attendant at a young age and was recognized for his talent and loyalty.

Page 2: **Iga**
Iga is a region on the island of Honshu and also the name of the famous ninja clan that originated there. Another area famous for its ninja is Kouga, in the Shiga prefecture on Honshu. Many books claim that these two ninja clans were mortal enemies, but in reality inter-ninja relations were not as bad as stories might suggest.

Page 22, panel 1: **Mitsuhide Akechi**
Mitsuhide Akechi became one of Oda Nobunaga's retainers after Nobunaga's conquest of Mino province (now Gifu prefecture) in 1566. He is known to have been more of an intellectual and a pacifier than a warrior.

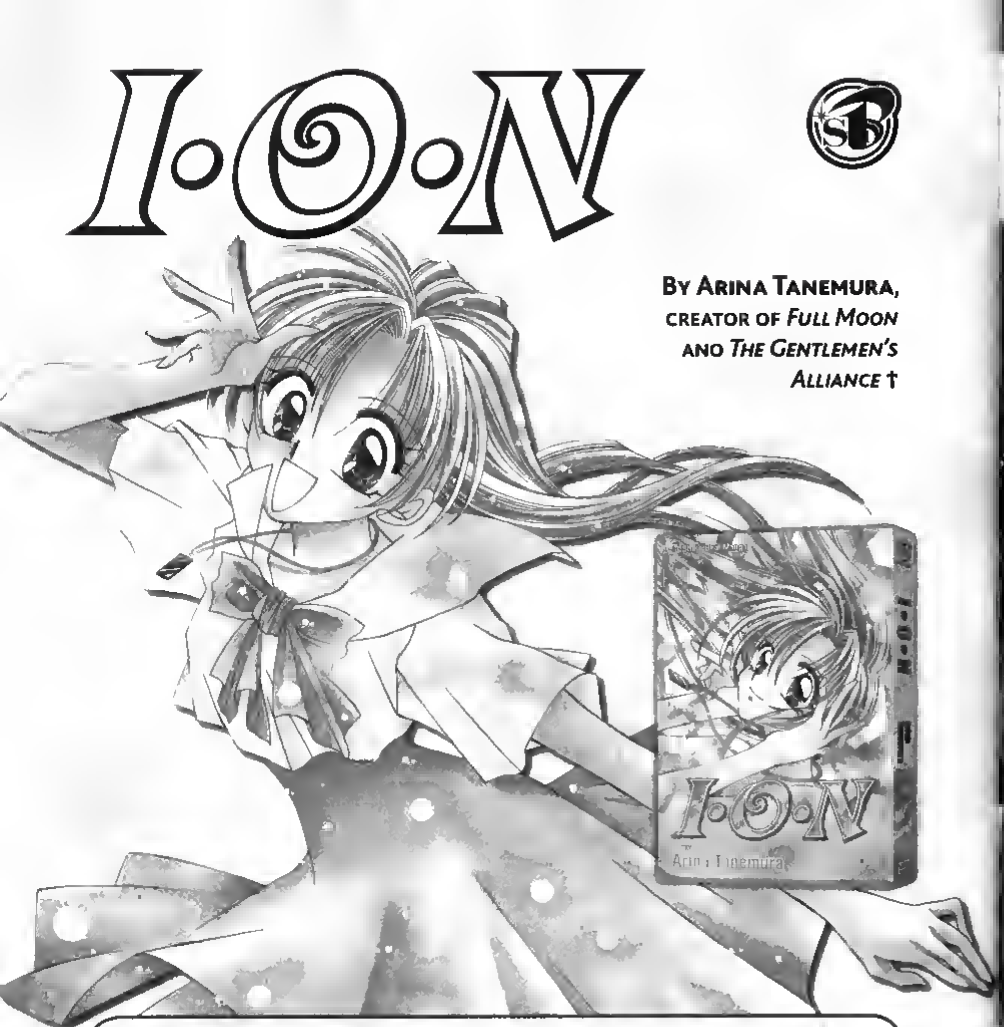
Page 23, panel 1: **Kunoichi**
A term often used for female ninja. The word is spelled く ノ 一, and when combined, the letters form the kanji for woman, 女。

Of all the processes in creating manga, the thing I tend to be weakest at is dividing the page into various panels. If it's too simplistic, it gets dull. But if I make it too complex, then it will be too hard to read! So I usually aim for them to be "reasonably easy-to-read yet dramatic and daring in the big scenes," and I keep groaning every time I draw my manga.

–Rinko Ueda

Rinko Ueda is from Nara prefecture. She enjoys listening to the radio, drama CDs, and Rakugo comedy performances. Her works include *Ryo*, a series based on the legend of Gojo Bridge, *Home*, a story about love crossing national boundaries, and *Tail of the Moon (Tsuki no Shippo)*, a romantic ninja comedy.

I·O·N



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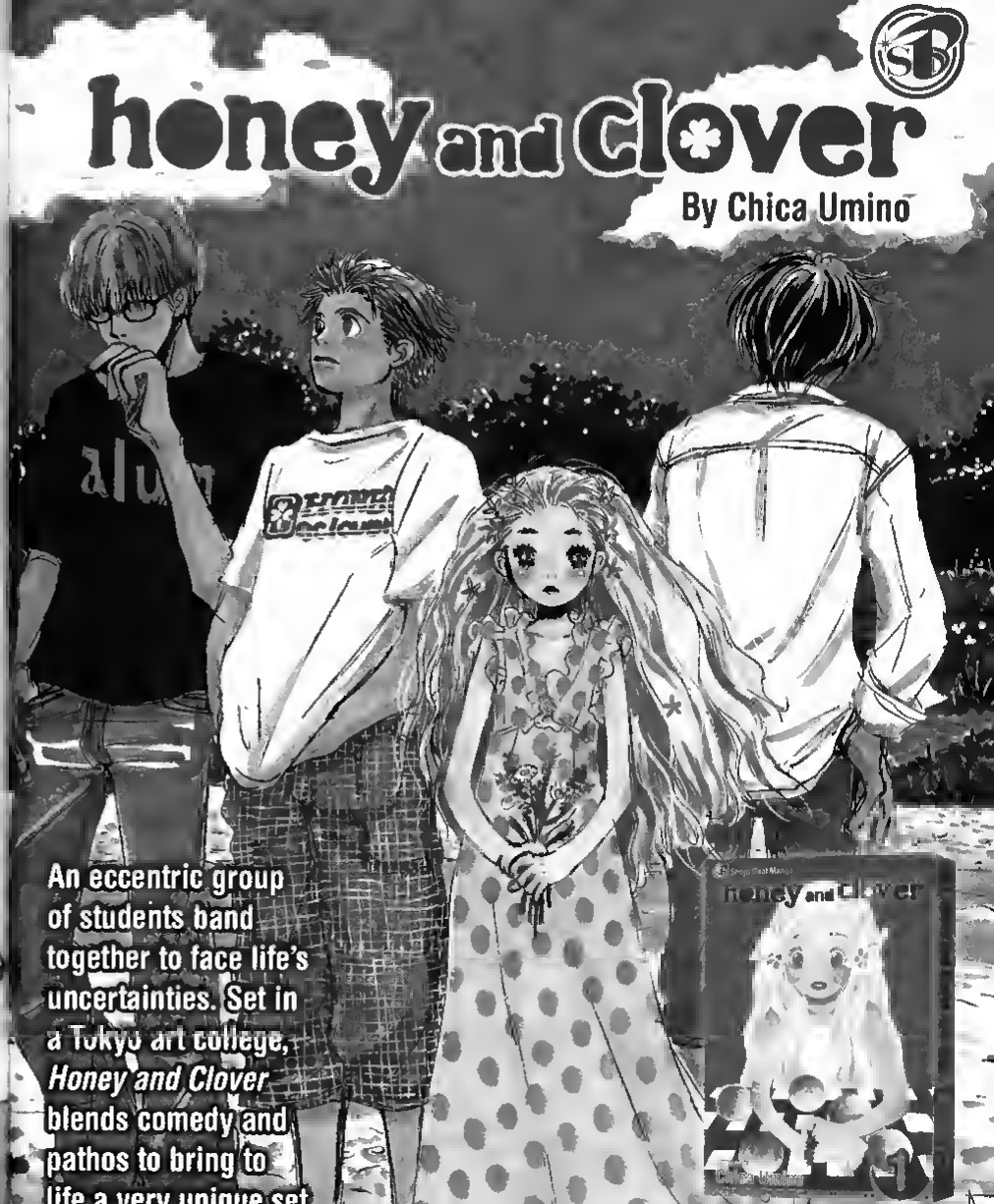
honey and Clover

By Chica Umino



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